GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:543
ANSWERED ON:08.07.2009
IMPACT OF RECESSION
Kodikunnil Shri Suresh

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Indians working in overseas countries are being affected by global recession;

(b) if so, the number of such Indians affected by the recession; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a), (b) & (c) Indian Missions in the Gulf Countries in Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain and Qatar have informed that there has been no report of any large scale adverse impact on Indian workers because of global economic slowdown and recession, though there has been report of some job losses. The Indian Mission in United Arab Emirates (UAE) has reported that accurate figures of return of Indian workers are not available.It is estimated that ranging from 50,000 to 1,50,000 workers have returned to India as a result of the delay in execution of projects due to economic slow down and recession.They have further informed that most of the workers have returned to India on leave without pay with the expectation that they would be able to return to work in the UAE once the situation improves.It would be relevant here to mention that more than ninety percent of Indian Emigration is to the Gulf Countries.

Further information received from Indian Missions in Afghanistan,Syria, Sudan, Brunei, Libya, Jordan, and Lebanon, indicate that there is no report of Indians affected by global recession there. Indian Mission in Yemen has informed that there is negligible impact on Indian workers due to global recession.Indian Mission in Indonesia has stated that there is no large scale impact of recession in Indonesia.Indian Mission in Malaysia has informed that small number of Indian workers have returned to India due to slowdown of the Malaysian economy in the context of current global recession.

So far as professionals are concerned, they mostly emigrate to the Western World. As per report received from Germany, Canada, United Kingdom, New Zealand and Australia, there is no report of such return of Indians because of recession and economic slowdown.

Report received from United States of America (USA) indicates that the recession in USA has affected almost all sections of the people. However they have informed that Indians working in the United States are mostly professionals and the extent of job losses by Indians is, therefore, slightly mitigated by their indispensability to the organization. The exact number of Indian affected by the recession is indeterminate.